GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2938
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2002
DEVELOPMENT OF AMMUNITION FOR HOWITZER GUNS
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ordnance Factory organisation was to develop 7 types of ammunition for 155 Howitzer Gun indigenously but could develop only 4 types and failed to develop its 3 types;

(b) if so, the reasons for failure to develop 3 types of ammunition and action taken / proposed to be taken by the Government to develop these 3 types of ammunition to save foreign exchange;

(c) whether 4 types of ammunition developed by Ordnance Factory Organisation could not beutilised by the Army due to mismatch in production and supply of fuse, primer and propellant;

(d) if so, the manner in which these 4 types of ammunitions were produced without properly testing and who gave the go ahead for production resulting a huge loss to the exchequer;

(e) the details of ammunition which could not be utilised due to mismatch and cost involved therein; and

(f) the action taken / proposed to be taken by the Government to fix responsibility for such losses?
A N S W E R

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Ordnance Factories (OFs) developed 5 types out of the 7 types of ammunition to be developed for 155mm Gun system.

(a) Technology documents for two types of ammunitions i.e. 155mm smoke Infra Red and 155mm Cargo were not received from Bofors due to imposition of ban and the Authority Holding Sealed Particulars (AHSP) i.e. Controller of Quality Assurance (Ammunition) CQA (Ammn.) could not vet the indents for these two ammunitions.As a result Ordnance Factories could not develop/produce these two ammunitions. Army do not need Infra Red shell as smoke shell will be used in lieu.Attempts are being made to develop Cargo shell by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

(b) No, the ammunitions supplied by the Ordnance Factories are fully utilized alongwith imported Fuzes and Primers wherever required.

(d) to (f): Does not arise in view of (c) above.